

### Briefs

DWE Director **Steve Franks** has been named president of the National Technical Honor Society.

With 2,000 colleges and schools affiliated nationwide, the NTHS honors student leadership and achievement, promotes educational excellence, and enhances career opportunities for workforce education students.

**James H. Smith, Jr.**, manager of the Arkansas Federal Surplus Property Program, has been elected president of the National Association of State Agencies for Surplus Property.

The national association saves taxpayer dollars by extending the useful life of federal excess/surplus property by making it available to public and private organizations.

**John Davidson**, deputy director of Career and Technical Education, was a panelist at the American Correctional Association's 134<sup>th</sup> Congress of Correction in Chicago.

Davidson presented Arkansas' efforts in de-

(Continued on next page)

## State Funding for Apprenticeships not in Step with Supply & Demand

It's crunch time for the state's traditional apprenticeship program.

Wedge between limited state funding and an increased demand for skilled tradespeople, the required licensure train-

to go through a four-year apprenticeship program that requires them to attend school two nights a week, three hours a night, Don Havens, DWE program manager for apprenticeships, says.

to, Havens says, because there are more apprentices in the program.

Just five years ago, when there were about 2,800 apprentices, the state invested \$327 in training per apprentice. With more than 4,700 apprentices this past year, the state invested \$205 per apprentice.

Havens says the state money really is an investment—one that pays off quickly in the form of increased taxes paid by these apprentices because of their higher earnings.

(The apprentices this past year generated nearly \$3.4 million in tax revenue. That's more than a three-to-one return on the state's investment.)

This is not the time to spend less on apprenticeships, Havens says.

The construction industry, especially in Northwest Arkansas, is begging for skilled tradespeople.

The construction boom in that part of the state is hitting at a time when a lot of baby boomers who



*The SkillsUSA Championships give Arkansas students a chance to try their hand at plumbing and other skills. This early introduction, along with youth apprenticeships, may help fill the future demand for skilled tradespeople.*

ing program for plumbers and electricians—as well as other adult apprenticeship programs—could be facing a world of hurt.

Anyone wanting to be an electrician or plumber in the state of Arkansas is required by law to be licensed. To get that license, would-be plumbers and electricians have

Although the apprentices pay tuition, the state program that helps fund the training keeps the tuition affordable.

But that state funding, which comes from the Governor's Excellence in Education Trust Fund, is capped at \$974,741.

That money doesn't spread as far as it used

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## Briefs (cont.)

veloping the national career cluster for law, public safety, and security.

Speaking in the same workshop were New York Police Chief Robert N. Davoren and Elvin Gonzalez of the Berrien County Trial Court in Michigan.

The National Rehabilitation Association will give its Community Service Award to **John Wyvill**, commissioner of Arkansas Rehabilitation Services, at its annual conference in Philadelphia Oct. 16.

**Charlie Brown**, CFO of DWE, will be given an honorary American FFA degree at the FFA's national convention Oct. 27-30 in Louisville, Ky.

**Ted Dean**, school program adviser with Business/Marketing Technology, has been named state adviser for Phi Beta Lambda.

**IT Fundamentals**, a new pilot program for eighth-graders, is up and running at Brookland, Fayetteville, Valley View, Paragould, Mena, and Prairie Grove.

Nine new pilot schools are using **Computer Application I, II, III** this year.

Arkansas had 21 high schools register for the first **Oracle** seminar.

The state received a \$2.4 million Oracle in-kind grant for the school year.

# GED Opens Door to Brighter Future



The 2004 Arkansas Cornelius P. Turner Award winners, Billie Reed, left, and Louise Dunn speak at the GED Examiners Conference in Little Rock.

A second chance. A good first step. A new beginning.

That's how Billie Reed of St. Joe and Louise Dunn of Mena view their GEDs. For both of them, the general equivalency diploma opened the door to a college education and careers that allow them to make a difference in Arkansas.

The women recently were awarded the Arkansas Cornelius P. Turner Award. Named for the founder of the GED testing program, the award honors Arkansas GED graduates who have contributed to society in education, public, or social service.

As a teenager, Dunn had few options for the future. Like many other young women of her generation, she left school to get married.

The turning point for Dunn occurred one day while working in their chicken house with her husband, William, after their children were grown.

"I made the comment that 'there has to be something out there besides this,'" Dunn says. When her husband asked her what she wanted to do, she quickly answered that she wanted to go to school. Then go, he said.

Dunn got her GED in

1985 at the age of 46.

That led to an associate's degree, a bachelor's degree, and then graduate work.

Although much younger when she got her GED, Reed's story isn't that different. She dropped out of school when she was 15 to have a baby. To help support her young family, she left her schoolbooks to work in the Levi Strauss plant in Harrison.

When the factory offered its employees a chance to get a GED during the work day, Reed jumped at the chance, even though "it was intim-

idating," she says. A few years later, the factory closed. Reed used her severance benefits to get her associate's degree at North Arkansas Community College. She went on to get her bachelor's degree.

Pursuing their education resulted in some short-term sacrifices for Dunn and Reed. But they agree the long-term results have been worth it.

Dunn retired this summer as the financial aid director at Rich Mountain Community College. "This has been our salvation," she says of the GED. Shortly after she went back to school, her husband's health deteriorated. She's convinced that without her education, she and her husband would be on welfare today.

Had it not been for the GED, Reed says she would be stuck with whatever job happened to be available. Instead, she is the coordinator of the College Now program at North Arkansas College.

(See <http://dwe.arkansas.gov/DeptDir/newsreleases/GED9-2004.doc> for more on this story.)

## 2003 GED Facts

Of the 7,578 Arkansans who took the GED, 83 percent passed -- compared with the national pass rate of 70.6 percent.

*This has been our salvation.*

--Louise Dunn

Guest Column

# Project Helps Working Adults Tackle College

**By Mike Leach  
Good Faith Fund**

The Good Faith Fund, Southeast Arkansas College in Pine Bluff, Arkansas Association of Two-Year Colleges, and the Department of Workforce Education are pooling their resources to help nontraditional students get a college education through the Career Pathways pilot project.

The project is geared toward helping working adults, including those with low basic academic skills and low incomes, enroll and succeed in college by addressing the unique challenges these nontraditional students face.

Such challenges range from a lack of adequate student counseling and mentoring to a lack of academic preparation and inadequate access to support services such as financial aid and child care.

## Career Pathways pilot project:

- A full-time, dedicated Adult Education instructor to teach the WAGE College Bridge Program curricula
- Flexibly scheduled Adult Education and college courses to accommodate working adult time constraints
- Access to critical student support services, such as financial aid, childcare, and transportation—all of which are critical for working adults to pursue and succeed at continuing their education
- Intensive, continuous student coaching and mentoring, including job placement and retention assistance

These challenges differ greatly from those facing “traditional” college students—young adults going directly from high school to college.

The pilot project lays out six different pathways of continuing education opportunities, beginning with adult education (if needed) and culminating in college certificates or degrees.

Each pathway focuses

on a particular career field, and each educational step is linked to advanced job opportunities with local or regional employers.

Key to each continuing education pathway is a contextualized adult education curriculum, which is designed to prepare students with low basic academic skills for success in the college credit programs of that pathway.

By using WAGE Literacy Task Analysis methodology to contextualize the curriculum to occupations within a particular pathway, the program helps students build job- and career-specific skills while building basic academic skills to a level necessary to succeed in college.

Collectively, these curricula are known as the WAGE College Bridge Program.

The primary role of the Good Faith Fund is to help students get critical support services as they advance through the career pathway they have chosen and provide them with intensive coaching and mentoring.

*(For more information, call Mike Leach at the Good Faith Fund, 501-661-0322, or Rob Edleston at Southeast Arkansas College, 870-543-5948.)*

# Arkansas Students Bring Home the Gold

Arkansas students put in a good showing at the 2004 SkillsUSA National Championships.

Postsecondary gold medalists were Ronald Davenport, SAU Tech Aviation, who finished first in aviation maintenance technology, and Billy Adams, National Park Com-

munity College, who finished first in marine service technology.

Gold medals also went to secondary students Greg Pierce of Russellville AVTC, CNC milling; Jessica Rescorl of Fayetteville's West Campus, criminal justice; and Cali-

tia Croy and Victoria Stelly of Saline County Career Center, nail care.

A silver medal went to a team from Springdale High School consisting of Blake Jackson, Jordon Lomon, James Meckler, Kim Reed, Nathan Pendergraft, and Sarah Dancer, which competed in

the chapter business procedure competition.

Winning bronze medals were Kenny Beeler of Arkansas Tech-Ozark Campus, HVACR; Michelle McAllister of ATU-Ozark, job skill demonstration; and Sean Walters of Bentonville High School, first aid—CPR.



# WE-News Roundup

## JAG

The Jobs for Arkansas' Graduates program is paying off—both for the grads and the instructors.

Part of the national Jobs for America's Graduates, the state program started in 2000-01 with just three sites. This year, JAG has 39 sites in Arkansas.

For the JAG Class of 2004, 28 trained specialists averaged 131 contact hours per student.

The 2004 graduates are earning an average of \$6.31 per hour and working an average of 28.9 hours a week.

Several Arkansas JAG specialists were honored for their commitment and hard work at the 2004 National Training Seminar held in Chicago this past summer.

Sherrie James, Springdale High School, was recognized for maintaining contact with 100 percent of the participants in her program and delivering services during a 12-month follow-up period.

James McGaha of Clinton High School was recognized as one of the top performers in maintaining contact with participants.

Sherrie Mays of Hall High School in Little Rock was recognized for the most improved student attendance and behavior.

Karen Purvis of Mena High School was recognized for providing the most community service hours and most Career Association time for the 2003-04 school year.

Both James and Mays—along with Debbie Anselmi of Bald Knob High School, Dennis Butler of Batesville High School, Cheryl Morrison of Hope High School, Emma Jewel Peyton of Central High School in Little Rock, Wanda Baskins of Little Rock's McClellan High School, and Terri Bone of Sheridan High School—were also given the "5 of 5 Award" for meeting all five of the national performance goals.

## Inservice

Hundreds of our teachers became students for a few days this past summer as they attended inservice training.

The New Teacher Inservice, held at the Dawson Cooperative in Arkadelphia, welcomed 62 new teachers.

They were introduced to program policies and procedures, programs of study, frameworks and end-of-course assessments, course codes and certifications, advisory committees, and professional and student organizations.

More than 600 teachers attended the Business/Marketing Technology Inservice sessions. Subjects included computer applications, multimedia applications, desktop publishing, Web design, and frameworks for marketing.



Our students also were busy this summer competing—and winning—in national events.

Stephanie Danforth of Stuttgart High School returned from the DECA competition in Nashville \$1,000 richer.

That was part of her first-place prize in fashion merchandising.



Stephanie Danforth

Danforth's winning entry was a marketing promotion for the Zoppini Italian charm bracelet, which

was being sold at a gift shop in her town.

Danforth was one of 100 Arkansas delegates to DECA's national conference. Two other Arkansas students also were finalists.

More than 180 delegates attended the national conference of the Future Business Leaders of America in Denver.

Arkansas had 19 Top 10 winners, including four first-place winners, and 20 Top 10 national PBL winners.



Valerie Sherwood, Jessica Leach, and Brent Lemieux made up the Rose Bud High School team that placed first in the FBLA community service project.

With \$82,000, Arkansas was the first-place state chapter in FBLA's March of Dimes competition.

Nettleton High School was the first-place local chapter, having raised \$18,000.

Jonathan Raines of East Poinsett County High, placed first in Word Processing II.

## NewFaces

**Sandra Porter** joined DWE in June as the program manager for Business/Marketing Technology.

Porter, who has spent 25 years in the classroom, has a bachelor's from Missouri Southern and a master's from the U of A, Fayetteville.

Coming to DWE from the Arkansas Public Service Commission in August, **Ginger Fisher** is a school program adviser for Business/Marketing Technology.

Fisher received her bachelor's from the University of Science and Arts of Oklahoma.

**Mari Serebrov** signed on as the communications manager in July.

An author, journalist, and college professor, Serebrov received her bachelor's from John Brown University and her master's from the U of A, Fayetteville.

## WE--News

*WE--News is a quarterly publication of the Arkansas Department of Workforce Education.*

*For more DWE news, see [dwe.arkansas.gov](http://dwe.arkansas.gov)*

Dr. Steve Franks, Director

Mari Serebrov, Communications Manager

Holly Beason, Communications Assistant



# ARS to Celebrate Success Stories

The Second Annual Arkansas Ability Awards Luncheon, to be held at 11:30 a.m. Oct. 4 at the DoubleTree Hotel in Little Rock, will be a celebration of success.

Together with the Governor's Commission on People with Disabilities and Lt. Gov. Win Rockefeller, Arkansas Rehabilitation Services will recognize the success of several of its clients and honor Arkansas businesses and organizations committed to helping and hiring people with disabilities.

Clients who will be recognized are Ryan Moore of Springdale, Sam Whittle, Jr., of Jonesboro, Lisa Rogers of Arkansas City, Tamara Langley of El Dorado, Bridget Mark-

ham of Hot Springs, and Faedawati "CeCe" Vermillion of Benton.

The Commissioner's Awards will be given to Tim King of the University of Arkansas in Fayetteville, Jim Hudson with the Division of Blind Services, and Ralph Rouse, a former client who became the first wheelchair-bound person to work for ARS.

Business awards will be given to Spa Area Independent Living Services of Hot Springs, American Railcar Industries of Paragould, Rainbow of Challenges of Hope, and Annette's Nursing Service of Benton.

For their efforts in hiring people with disabilities, the Governor's Commission on People with

Disabilities will recognize Paragould Health and Fitness Gym and Golden's Paint and Body Shop and Delta Plastics, both of Hot Springs.

The luncheon will feature Peter David Blanck, a nationally known disability rights lawyer. A professor of both law and psychology, Blanck is the director of the Law, Health Policy, and Disability Center at the Iowa College of Law. With satellite offices in Washington, D.C., and elsewhere, the center focuses on improving the quality of life for people with disabilities.

The author of numerous articles and books, Blanck's most recent title is *Disability Civil Rights Law and Policy* (West, 2004).

## State Funding for Apprenticeships...

Continued from Page 1

went into the trades are retiring.

"We've got a dire shortage of skilled tradespeople," Havens says.

The U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics projects a 21 percent to 35 percent growth in the number of jobs nationwide for electricians and heating/air/refrigeration workers over the next eight years.

The only viable solution is more funding, Havens says. Doing away with the licensure requirement and training is not an option.

Raising tuition for apprentices would make the program too expensive for many workers at a time the state needs more skilled tradespeople.

The Arkansas Apprenticeship Coordination Steering Committee is looking at ways to address the problem, Havens says.

	1991	1999	2003
<b>Funding</b>	\$156,000	\$918,543	\$974,741
<b># of Apprentices</b>	967	2,809	4,700
<b>\$/Apprentice</b>	\$161	\$327	\$205

*A cap on funding, coupled with an increase in apprentices, means the state is spending 63 percent of the funds per apprentice that it did four years ago.*

# WE-Calendar

## October

4

**2nd Annual Arkansas Ability Awards Luncheon**, 11:30 a.m., DoubleTree Hotel, Little Rock

5-6

**Postsecondary Skills USA Fall Leadership Conference**, Austin Hotel, Hot Springs

7

**SBWECO meeting**, 9:30 a.m., UA System Offices, Little Rock

8-17

**Arkansas State Fair**

10-12

**AATYC Conference**, Northwest Arkansas Convention Center, Springdale

11-12

**Secondary SkillsUSA Fall Leadership Conference**, Mid-South Community College, West Memphis

14-15

**ARS Fall Conference**, Holiday Inn West, Little Rock

14-17

**National Rehabilitation Association's Annual Conference**, Philadelphia

19

**Virtual Job Shadow/Surgery Visit**, 8-10 a.m., UAMS, RSVP SAU Youth Apprenticeship for Allied Health Care

21

**HOSA Fall Leadership Conference**, 8 a.m. - 2:30 p.m., UCA Student Center, Conway

26-27

**Secondary SkillsUSA Fall Leadership Conference**, Western Arkansas Technical Center, Fort Smith

27

**Training for VTECS**,

Arlington Hotel in Hot Springs

**Workshop for Career Communications Pilot Sites**, 9 a.m. - 3 p.m., Arlington Hotel, Hot Springs

**Workshop for Performing Arts/Dance Instructors**, 9 a.m. - 3 p.m., Arlington Hotel in Hot Springs

27-30

**National FFA Convention**, Louisville, Ky.

28-29

**Endorsement Training/Annual Inservice for Internship Coordinators**, Arlington Hotel, Hot Springs

## November

7-10

**Council of State Administrators of Voca-**

**tional Rehabilitation Fall Conference**, Nashville

11

**Veterans' Day**  
State offices closed

18-21

**FBLA National Fall Leadership Conference** (senior high), New Orleans

20-22

**Council on Occupational Education annual meeting**, San Antonio, Texas

25

**Thanksgiving Holiday**  
State offices closed

## December

5-6

**FBLA State Executive Council**, Little Rock

23-24

**Merry Christmas!**  
State offices closed

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**Happy 2005!**  
State offices closed

## United Way Campaign

DWE employees will have the opportunity to invest in the community **Oct. 25-29** through the annual United Way campaign.

Your donation will help provide services for needy families and children, fund medical research, and improve the quality of life for all who call central Arkansas home.

Pledge cards will be placed in your mailboxes **Oct. 25**. They should be returned to the Communications Office by noon **Oct. 29**.